FY08 Idaho Flex Program Grant: Award Summary

The State Office of Rural Health released guidance for a grant opportunity, funded by the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program, in August 2008. Eligible applicants for the Flex Grant included: designated Critical Access Hospitals (CAH), rural health networks (nonprofit and include at least three CAHs); and rural EMS agencies that directly serve a CAH area. Applicants could request up to $25,000 and the total amount available during the FFY 2008 funding cycle (ending August 31, 2009) was $105,000.

Twelve grant applications from eligible applicants requesting $279,080 were received. The Flex advisory committee reviewed applications and made the following award determinations:

- City of Kamiah Ambulance Service ($25,000): Improve the ability of Kamiah Ambulance and other regional agencies to recruit and retain EMTs. Partners: St. Mary's Hospital, Clearwater Valley Hospital, Syringa General Hospital, Glenwood-Carbiel QRU, City of Kooskia Ambulance, Clearwater QRU, Tahoe QRU, and Lowell QRU.

- Clearwater Valley Hospital & Clinics ($25,000): Create a stable, better trained workforce for local hospitals, EMS, and other healthcare agencies in Clearwater County. Partners: Clearwater County EMS, State Hospital North, Region 2 Professional/Technical Academy, Joint School District 171, and Lewis Clark State College - Workforce Training.

- Elmore Medical Center ($24,897): Provide EMS staff training and education in Elmore County. Partners: Elmore County Commissioners, City of Mountain Home, Oasis Volunteer Fire Department, and Pine Featherville EMS.

- Boundary Community Hospital ($23,930): Provide perioperative nurse education in northern Idaho. Partners: Bonner General Hospital, Shoshone Medical Center, Pend Oreille Surgery, and North Idaho Rural Health Consortium.

- Blackfoot Fire Department ($6,020): Upgrade ambulance service capability to Critical Care Transport level in Blackfoot. Partners: Bingham Memorial Hospital, Blackfoot Medical Clinic, and City of Blackfoot.